

# **SOGS AGM MEETING**

## **Approved MINUTES**

February 8, 2011

5:30 – 6:25 pm

UCC Room 56

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**Speaker:** John Nater

**Recording secretary:** Olga Sauer

### **1. Ratification of Agenda**

Moved: K. Pisters

Seconded: A. Hamada

Agenda ratified

### **2. Approval of ratified minutes of the 2010 AGM**

Moved: K. Pisters

Seconded: A. Hamada

Approved

### **3. Announcements**

a) Welcome to the Annual General Meeting.

b) Quorum is 30.

c) Light refreshments are offered at tonight's meeting.

d) The SOGS OSOTF, OOP, Grad Club Bursaries and the 125<sup>th</sup> Scholarship deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>.

e) The Western Research Forum will be held on Saturday, February 26 in the Wave and UCC conference rooms. Dinner and award presentations will follow the talk. Watch the Western Research Forum website for more details.

f) Nominations for SOGS President are open and will close Friday, February 18 at 5 pm. Nomination forms are available in the SOGS office, and here at the desk.

g) The next Council meeting will be February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Orders of the Day**

#### **Motion #1**

BIRT SOGS adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 as proposed by the Finance Committee and recommended to the membership by Council at its meeting of January 27, 2011.

Moved: K. Pisters

Seconded: S. Teichert

J. Harel (VP Finance) presented the budget and answered questions.

Carried

#### **Motion #2**

Whereas the Graduate Education Council (GEC) meets collectively four times a year and graduate student representatives to the GEC have the option to serve up to two years.

Whereas the majority of new graduate students arrive in the Fall Term (i.e. the new Academic Year).

Whereas in an attempt to recruit new graduate students to the GEC, the start of a new term of membership for graduate student representatives to the GEC will commence on October 1 and terminate on September 30 following the second calendar year.

Whereas there are eleven graduate student representatives to the GEC, one per Faculty (i.e. Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Health Sciences, FIMS, Music, Science, Social Science, Ivey [Business], Law, Education, and Schulich [Medicine & Dentistry]).

Reaffirming the motion passed by Council in April 2010 stating that the SOGS Constitution 6.1.7 should be amended to: "Members of the Society who serve as graduate student representatives to The University of Western Ontario Senate, Board of Governors, Graduate Education Council, or Graduate Students Teaching Assistants Union shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of Council."

Whereas we believe elections to serve on the GEC to be democratic:

BIRT new graduate student representatives to the GEC are elected during the September SOGS Council meeting.

BIFRT SOGS email all graduate students ten (10) business days before the September SOGS Council Meeting to call for nominations for the positions that are vacant or for those whose current member has reached the completion of their term.

BIFRT graduate student representatives to the GEC-elect appear in person to the SOGS office within seven business days after the election, in order to verify a representative's student status and home Faculty.

BIFRT SOGS forwarded the names of the graduate student representatives to the GEC-elect to the chair of the Operations/Agenda and Nominating Committee of the GEC for ratification.

Moved: J. Nethery

Seconded: A. Stuart-Ross

Carried

## 5. Executive Reports

### President

Sutherland reported that the renovations to the SOGS office were completed. SGPS is now registering scholarships on transcripts and money is paid out by term. There has been some talk about moving the Grad Club to another location. He also is encouraging the membership (and Council) to look at Executive contracts and the possibility of increasing their stipend.

### VP Academic

Simpson asked members to come out to the Western Research Forum on February 26. Judges are still needed. If groups are asking for support from the Joint Fund, they should not request that their entire budget be covered by this money. GSTA nominations will be opened for the winter and full terms from mid-March to mid-April. There are twenty awards (5 from each division).

### VP External

Chowdhury was unable to attend but will gladly answer any questions. He can be contacted through – [sogs.external@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs.external@uwo.ca).

### VP Finance

Harel reported that there are on-going meetings with UWO administration concerning the endowment funds. The bursary application has been streamlined. The Sustainability committee is very active.

### VP Student Services

Hum reported that the Health Plan survey received 516 replies. Results will be published at a later time. March 26 a dinner and wine tasting is being organized at the Grad Club cost will be \$30 per person or \$50 per couple (early bird \$25 per person).

Curling bonspiel is being organized on March 19 by the Sociology department (cost is \$100 for a team of 4).

Team work is very important. He is working very hard to create inter-portfolio functions.

## 6. Non-Executive Updates

Commissioner for Students with Disabilities

Mohler has been instrumental in organizing petitions to have audible crosswalk signals around the university. She sits on both the CARE and WODAC committees and is working on getting more Braille signage around the university. She is liaising with her undergraduate counterpart to assist students with disabilities.

## 7. New Business/Open Forum

John Magyar brought up the issue of open access. A letter will be drafted and brought to Council in February. Board of Governors will continue to collect the funds, but will re-look at this in the future. Currently \$15 was collected in September from all students, \$11 will eventually be reimbursed to students.

Adjourned 6:25 pm

Moved: D. Dechene

Seconded C. Hum